



State of Louisiana

Department of Environmental Quality



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For Immediate Release
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Public Alert

SEWAGE TREATMENT PIPE BURSTS IN BENTON **Clean-up Under Way**

(Baton Rouge) – The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is investigating a release of untreated and partially treated sewage approximately one-half mile west on Stinson Road in Benton, Louisiana. DEQ officials inspected the impacted area and found no immediate public health threat, as the release pathway is uninhabited. However, persons should refrain from entering the release pathway until an "all clear" is given.

A sewerage force main ruptured on the morning of February 25, 2003. The rupture was discovered by the town's water and sewer personnel and promptly reported to DEQ. The released material drained through a wooded area on the left side of Stinson's Road into Stinson's Pond. A watch is in place for possible effects on the fish population. There are no roads or highway closures due to this incident and there are no known drinking water sources impacted.

The Town of Benton personnel completed the repair of the breach of the force main yesterday afternoon and the force main is operational at this time. Town officials determined that four million gallons of untreated and partially treated sewage was released. The cause of the rupture is still under investigation.

For further information please contact the Office of the Mayor of the Town of Benton at 318-965-2781 or the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's Northwest Regional Office at 318-676-7476.